

Application No. 10/802,401
Amendment dated May 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached annotated drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 5 to show adhesive 12 between the spoke 2 and the holding part 11, as described in paragraph [0029] of the specification.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet

Remarks

Claims 2-20 are pending. Claim 2 is cancelled herein, claim 4 is indicated as being allowed, and claims 7 and 8 were previously withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 3, 5, 6 and 9-20 are currently at issue.

The drawing informalities are addressed in annotated Figure 5 submitted herewith. More particularly, annotated Figure 5 now specifically shows the adhesive that may be present between the holding part 11 and the spoke 2. In addition, the adhesive is now designated with reference number 12 in annotated Figure 5, and the specification is amended in paragraph [0029] in this regard as well. With respect to the interspace of claim 4, paragraph [0024] of the specification is amended to clarify that the gap 5 between the spoke 2 and holding part 3 is the same interspace recited in claim 4.

With respect to the claims, the indication that claim 4 is allowed and claim 6 recites allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claim 6 is rewritten in independent form to recite the limitations of intervening claim 5 and its base claim 16 so that claim 6 should now be in condition for allowance.

Further, the applicants, by way of their undersigned attorney, wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interviews conducted for this matter. In the interview on May 10, 2007, it was agreed that claim 5 and claim 16 as amended herein distinguish over the Miyako, et al. publication previously relied upon to reject the claims. More particularly, with respect to claim 5, Miyako, et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited holding part first portion that is fixed within the foam material and which surrounds the steering wheel skeleton at least partially at one point. With respect to amended claim 16, Miyako, et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited first portion of the holding part that is fixed within the foam material and including a generally flat surface of the holding part first portion that engages against the steering wheel skeleton with the remainder of the holding

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part first portion engaged by the foam material surrounding the steering wheel skeleton to hold the generally flat surface against the steering wheel skeleton.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action as consistent therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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